

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, GR, US (PUGH, ROBERT L)

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: TDY ASSIGNMENT FOR
ROBERT L. PUGH

REF: ATHENS 8363

1. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE IN RECESS UNTIL ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1, WE SHOULD BEGIN THINKING NOW ABOUT STEPS THAT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT KEY MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ATHENS TO PARTICIPATE IN WHAT WILL BE, HOPEFULLY, THE FINAL PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AMONG THESE KEY PERSONNEL, NONE WILL BE MORE INDISPENSABLE TO THE SPEEDY AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAN OUR DEPARTING POLITICAL/MILITARY OFFICER, ROBERT PUGH. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, BOB PUGH HAS BEEN THE ANCHORMAN OF TH US DELEGATION SINCE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN 18 MONTHS AGO. HE HAS NOT ONLY A CLEAR GRASP OF THE GENERAL COURSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ALSO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THE TEAM. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THE DEPARMENT MAKE HIM AVAILABLE FOR THE FINAL PHASE.

2. PUGH HAS RECEIVED ORDERS TRANSFERRING HIM FROM ATHENS TO THE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WILL APPARENTLY BE CARRIED OVER-COMPLEMENT IN EUR. HIS SUCCESSOR IN ATHENS, MORTON DWORKEN, IS ON BOARD AND HAS ALREADY TAKEN OVER THE NORMAL RANGE OF DUTIES OF THE POLITICAL/
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MILITARY OFFICER. HE IS ALSO PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY

IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS.

3. PUGH PLANS TO DEPART THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK WITH HIS FAMILY FOR WASHINGTON. HE IS, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO RETURN TO ATHENS TO ASSIST IN CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS. WE REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT ARRANGE TO DETAIL HIM TDY TO ATHENS FROM ABOUT AUGUST 31 UNTIL CONCLUSION OF THE US-GREEK DCA, WHICH WE ESTIMATE WILL OCCUR ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER. BOB NOT ONLY DESERVES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FINAL PHASE. WITHOUT HIM THERE MIGHT NOT BE ONE.
KUBISCH

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